

**Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

All claims currently being amended are shown with deleted text struckthrough or double bracketed and new text underlined. Additionally, the status of each claim is indicated in parenthetical expression following the claim number.

Claims 8, 9, 23-24 remain.

Claims 8, 9, 23-24 are being cancelled.

Claims 31-40 are being added

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

8 – 9. (Cancelled)

23 – 24. (Cancelled)

31. (New) An audio system having reduced clipping effects, comprising:

    a first amplifier for combining a right channel input signal and a common mode output signal to generate a right channel output signal;

    a second amplifier for combining a left channel input signal and the common mode output signal;

    a third amplifier receiving a combination of the right channel input signal and the left channel input signal to generate the common mode output signal;

    a first speaker driven between the right channel output signal and the common mode output signal; and

    a second speaker driven between the right channel output signal and the common mode output signal.

32. (New) The audio system of Claim 31, further comprising:

a first digital to analog converter providing the right channel input signal to the first amplifier; and  
a second digital to analog converter providing the left channel input signal to the second amplifier.

33. (New) The audio system of Claim 31, wherein the third amplifier further references the right and left input signals against a common mode voltage.

34. (New) An amplifier for driving two speakers with a three – wire interface comprising:

a left channel input for receiving a left channel input signal;  
a right channel input receiving a right channel input signal;  
a common mode output for outputting a common mode output signal representing a combination of the left channel input signal and the right channel input signal;  
a left channel output for outputting a left channel output signal of a combination of the common mode output signal and the left channel input signal;  
a right channel output for outputting a right channel output signal of a combination of the common mode output signal and the right channel input signal; and  
wherein left channel output and the common mode output are operable to drive a left channel speaker load disposed therebetween and the right channel output and the common mode output are operable to drive a right channel speaker load disposed therebetween.

35. (New) The amplifier of Claim 34, wherein the left and right channel input signals are referenced against a common mode voltage and the common mode output further combines the common mode voltage with the left and right channel input signal to generate the common mode output signal.

36. (New) An amplifier for driving two speakers across a three – wire interface comprising:

a first differential amplifier for receiving a pair of differential right channel signals referenced to a common mode voltage and outputting a right channel output signal representing a combination of a difference between the pair of differential right channel signals and a common mode output signal;

a second differential amplifier for receiving a pair of differential left channel signals referenced to the common mode voltage and outputting a left channel output signal representing a combination of a difference between the differential left channel signals and the common mode output signal; and

a third differential amplifier receiving a combination of a first one of the pair of differential right channel signals, a first one of the pair of differential left channel signals and the common mode voltage, and outputting the common mode output signal.

37. (New) The amplifier of Claim 36, wherein the combination of a difference between the pair of differential right channel signals and the common mode output signal comprises a sum of the difference between the pair of differential right channel signals and the common mode output signal and the combination of the difference between the pair of differential left channel signals and a common mode output signal comprises a sum of the difference between the pair of differential left channel signals and the common mode output signal.

38. (New) The amplifier of Claim 36, wherein the first one of the pair of right differential channel signals is presented to a non – inverting input of the first differential amplifier and the first one of the pair of left differential channel signals is presented to a non – inverting input of the second differential amplifier.

39. (New) The amplifier of Claim 36, wherein the common mode output signal is fed – back to a non – inverting terminal of the first differential amplifier and a non – inverting terminal of the second differential amplifier.

40. (New) The amplifier of Claim 36, further comprising:

a first digital to analog converter for generating the pair of differential right channel signals referenced to the common mode voltage; and

a second digital to analog converter for generating the pair of differential left channel signals referenced to the common mode voltage.